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DRAM 111A.01: Acting for Non-Majors

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University of Montana, Department of Drama/Dance Spring 2007
Acting for Non-Majors/Drama 111 section 01 8:10 am – 9:30 am TR
3 credits/General Education: Expressive Arts (A)
Instructor: **Deborah Voss**
Office location: PARTV 204
Office message phone: 243-4481 and e-mail: deborah.voss@umontana.edu
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:30am -11:00am

Aim:

The purpose of this course is to help you broaden your communication, presentation and personal skills. The course will also help you develop a more articulate, responsive, and expressive identity. These goals are achieved by studying the craft of acting. At the end of the semester I hope you leave with an extended understanding of your self, your peers, and your world.

Outcomes:

In this setting you will achieve:

- a demonstrated confidence in the presentation of your self - socially and professionally;
- an ability to further articulate both your personal character and the character of those you take on in roles;
- a basic understanding of the nature of theatre and craft of acting;
- an understanding of, and respect for, performance including audience etiquette;
- an understanding of the importance and contribution theatre makes to our world.

Requirements:

Class Attendance:

- **Missing more than 1 week of class will drop your grade one full letter. For every 3 tardies accrued it will count as an absence.** This is a studio class which means that the bulk of the work takes place in the classroom and cannot be made up. Because of the collaborative nature of acting you not only compromise your own work but the work of your classmates when you are absent.

Production Attendance:

- **You are required to attend all three of the University of Montana drama performances produced this semester.** Missing one production will drop your grade one full letter. Missing two productions will drop your grade two full letters. If you do not attend any of the productions you will earn a failing grade in the class. Production attendance is a part of this class - there are no exceptions and there will be quizzes on the productions.
- **The class fee that you have already paid allows you to get one ticket for these shows at no extra expense.** You must pick up your ticket at the Drama box office located in the lobby of the PARTV building in person between 11:30 AM and 5:30 PM, Monday - Friday. You can only pick up one ticket, your own; you cannot pick up a classmates ticket for them.

- You must **present your GRIZ CARD** to pick up your tickets and you must identify which class you are in, therefore you must know your section number and instructors name. *You are in section: 4 Your instructor's name is: **Deborah Voss**.*
- Seating in the Masquer Theatre is general admission. Seating in the Montana Theatre is reserved.
- **The fee that you have paid does not guarantee you a ticket on a particular night, nor does it guarantee that you will be able to get a ticket if the show sells out, therefore do not wait until the evening of the performance to pick up a ticket.**
- The three shows you will be seeing this semester are:

<i>Boy Gets Girl</i>	<i>Masquer Theatre</i>	<i>September 25-29, October 2-6</i>
<i>The Good Person of Setzuan</i>	<i>Open Space</i>	<i>October 23-27, November 3, 6-10</i>
<i>Tartuffe</i>	<i>Montana Theatre</i>	<i>November 27-December 1, 4-8</i>

Participation in Class Projects and Performances:

- You will be performing on a weekly basis and will be given grades for your class work and performances in the areas of *process* and *product*. In other words you will be graded on the finished performance and on all of the rehearsals. Your grade in this area is not based on the natural talent you bring to the class, rather it will be a reflection of your *developed* talent and the progress that you make over the course of the semester. This assessment includes periodic quizzes on the material discusses in class as well as the final performance.

Effort/Respect/Attitude:

- Effort and respect are two very important requirements. It is expected that you will respond to all assignments and performances with effort and enthusiasm. It is expected that you respect yourself, your classmates, your instructor, and your classroom environment. An excellent performance hinges upon taking risks which is impossible to do if the environment is uncomfortable or uninviting. It is expected that when you participate in classroom activities your peers will encourage you to commit to your actions and characters without embarrassment, remorse, or caution. Passing this class requires openness and a willingness to take risks.

Writing Assignments:

- There are two writing assignments this semester. Although these assignments are generally creative in nature, they must be representative of university writing. You will be graded for your imagination and creativity as well as for the quality of your writing. These papers must be typed and proofread and must meet the demands of the assignment. Details on these individual writing assignments will come as they are assigned.

Evaluation:

Evaluation for the course is based on the following:

attendance including promptness and participation:	25%
participation in all class projects and performances including the final:	25%
effort/respect/attitude:	20%
production attendance:	20%
writing assignments:	10%

Procedure/Policy:

- There is no eating, drinking, or gum chewing during the class.
- Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom.
- Late work is not accepted; this includes late or unprepared performances.
- Students are encouraged to wear appropriate movement attire to class, which means NO JEANS. If you wear jeans to this class you will be asked to sit out and thus effecting your participation portion of your grade.
- There is inherent risk involved in many Drama/Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Departmental Handbook:

- All Drama/Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Drama/Dance *Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.sfa.umn.edu/drama/index.html>.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:

- All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umn.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

Content:

This course is divided into six sequential units.

Unit 1: What is Theatre? What is Acting?

- The history and theory of theatre and acting, vocabulary, audience etiquette and devising new performances.

Unit 2: Ensemble

- Building trust and skill through group exercises including warm-ups and theatre games.

Unit 3: Exploration, Play, Spontaneity

- Improvisation and working with music and movement to learn to trust impulses and instinct

Unit 4**Solo Performance**

- Monologues, personal performances and solo character studies

Unit 5/Final Unit**Scene Work with a Partner**

- Rehearsing and performing short scenes with a partner, creating new and original characters, writing scenes, and script analysis.

There will be a final examination for this class. It will include a performance and potentially a written quiz.

This exam is scheduled for : December 13th 2007 from 10 am -12 pm.